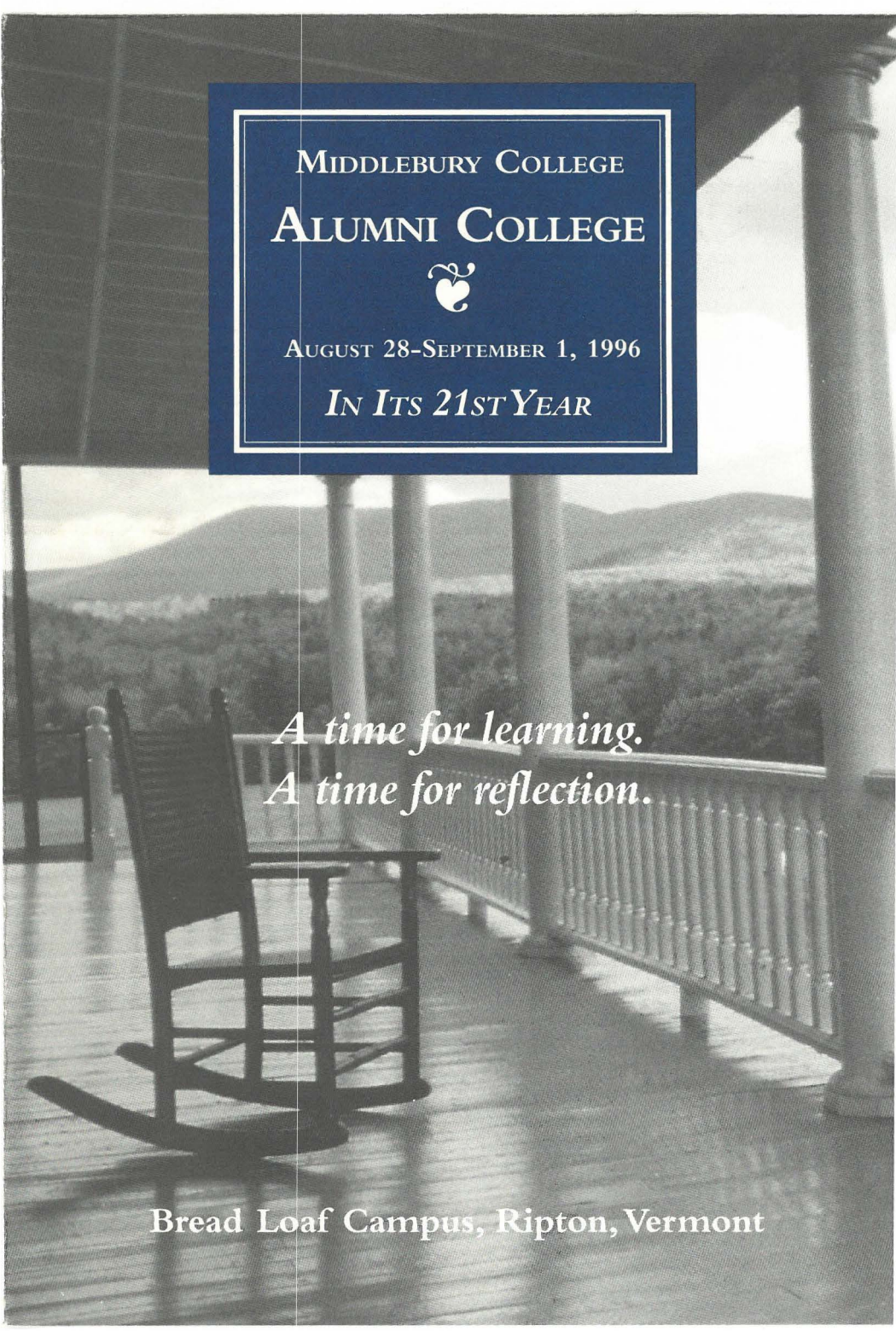


MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

ALUMNI COLLEGE

AUGUST 28-SEPTEMBER 1, 1996

IN ITS 21ST YEAR

A time for learning.
A time for reflection.

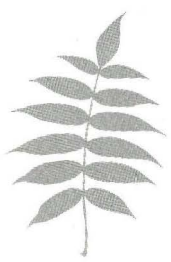
Bread Loaf Campus, Ripton, Vermont

Course Descriptions

1. Bridging East and West: The Impact of Japanese Art in Europe and America
Cynthia Packert Atherton, Associate Professor of Art History
The opening of Japan to the West in 1854 brought profound changes to Japan and a treasure trove of new art and culture to the West. The *japonisme* vogue in the latter half of the 19th century yielded a fascinating variety of responses by artists such as Claude Monet, Edgar Degas, Mary Cassatt, Winslow Homer, and Frank Lloyd Wright, to name a few. We will take a close look at the Japanese art these artists used for inspiration, as well as the "minor" arts—ceramics, textiles, wallpaper, furniture, and graphic art—that permeated Western popular culture. The course will include a field trip to the Shelburne Museum to view its collection of Impressionist works and related "Oriental" artifacts.

2. The 1996 Elections: Candidates, Issues, and Parties
Eric L. Davis, Professor of Political Science and Vice President for Information Technology
The 1996 presidential and congressional elections will be among the most important in recent American history. This course explores the candidates and issues, as well as the changing role of political parties in American politics. The course will enable participants to put this year's campaigns into a much larger context than that provided by daily press coverage. Students will learn, for example, how public opinion polls can structure election campaigns and mislead both candidates and voters. One session will be devoted to "surfing the Internet" for campaign information. No prior computer knowledge is required.

3. Genetic Engineering: Shaping the Future
Grace Spatafora, Assistant Professor of Biology
Molecular biotechnology, more commonly known as "genetic engineering," holds the promise to humankind of spectacular new benefits, which range from new cures for disease to super plants to a cleaner environment. But it also has led to new social issues and concerns. Should humans be genetically engineered? Will genetically engineered organisms be harmful to the environment? Should individuals be convicted of crimes on the basis of DNA fingerprinting? This course will introduce students to the genetic engineering revolution and discuss the pros and cons of its potential consequences. No prior science background is required.



4. Shakespeare and Rome
John Wilders, Fulton Professor of Humanities at Middlebury and Emeritus Fellow of Worcester College, Oxford
Three of Shakespeare's greatest plays—*Julius Caesar, Coriolanus,* and *Antony and Cleopatra*—are dramatizations of Roman history and politics at times of national crisis. Each also was based on biographies written by the Greek historian and philosopher Plutarch. All three plays are exciting dramatically and offer challenging roles for actors. We shall read the plays aloud, and shall try to discover what makes them powerful dramatically, how they reveal Shakespeare's views of Roman history and politics, and how Shakespeare transformed Plutarch's narratives into drama. No acting experience is necessary, just a willingness to take part in readings.

5. Hiking and Writing in the Mountains
John Elder, Professor of English and Environmental Studies
We will combine hiking in the Green Mountains with explorations in nature writing. Field journals—with our personal reflections, sketches, and descriptions of the landscape—will be a central part of the course. We also will discuss selections from contemporary authors, such as Annie Dillard and Gary Snyder. Some of the hiking trails will be steep and rugged, so expect some strenuous hiking.

6. Computing and Communication in the Nineties
Shel Sax, Director of Instructional Technology, Jim Stuart, Manager of UNIX Systems and Electronic Communications Services
How will the Internet and the World Wide Web change the way we work, do business, or go to school? How will they change our daily lives? The course will provide some basic technical background, as well as some nuts and bolts information, such as how to set up a modem and configure associated software and how to find and connect to an Internet provider. Then it will move to the hands-on component, which includes activities such as sending and receiving electronic mail, finding exciting services on the World Wide Web, and publishing one's own "Home Page" on Middlebury's Web server. Come prepare for the 21st century! No prior computer knowledge is required.

7. A Miscellany: International Middlebury
This year's miscellany course is built around international themes and issues, which allows us to show off some of the many Middlebury faculty whose teaching and research focus on international topics. The topics include: U.S.-Mexican relations, Southeast Asian dynamism and America's Pacific future, Russia's emerging stock market, the fragile Middle East peace, images of the West in Japanese film, and the geography of the new Russia, among others. Faculty members include: Carole Cavanaugh, Michael Claudon, Ronald Liebowitz, Tamar Mayer, David Rosenberg, and Mark Williams.

Faculty

Cynthia Atherton teaches courses in Japanese, Chinese, Indian, Islamic, African, and modern art. A childhood spread over all of Asia sparked her fascination with the relationships between East and West, and her courses offer remarkable insights into our own cultural preconceptions, as well as new ways of viewing the world. Cynthia is engaged in long-term research on the styles and meanings of ancient Hindu temple sculpture in India. Currently, though, she is taking a detour to analyze the bronze portals of the Salada Tea Building in downtown Boston.

Eric L. Davis is no stranger to Alumni College. In those years when he has not been teaching a course, he has provided insightful annual guest lectures on the state of American politics. An admitted recovering C-Span junkie, Eric established a reputation as a superb teacher and student of American national politics before being drafted into service in the Middlebury administration. He currently is serving as Middlebury's computer and media services czar, the vice president for information technology.

John Elder, who was recently featured as a literary environmental guru in a *New York Times Magazine* article, has a keen interest in the relationship between literature and the environment. Besides his "Visions of Nature" course during the regular academic year, John offers courses at the Bread Loaf School of English that involve extensive hiking and camping in the Green Mountains and the Adirondacks. His most recent book, among several on the relationship between nature and literature, links the poetry of Robert Frost to the natural and human history of Vermont.

Shel Sax has long been interested in technology and its potential uses in the curriculum. Educated in Canada, in 1984 Shel came to Middlebury, where he has established himself as Middlebury's master teacher in the use of computers in the classroom and the design of multimedia courseware. Currently, Shel is working closely with faculty who are developing World Wide Web pages for their courses.

Grace Spatafora's dynamic lecture on genetic engineering during last year's miscellany course led to a ground swell of requests that she be invited back to teach a full course on the subject. Since joining the biology faculty in 1992, Grace has had the responsibility for courses in microbiology and molecular genetics, as well as a seminar on the ethical issues surrounding the genetic engineering revolution. Her ongoing research on *Streptococcus mutans,* the bacterium that induces tooth decay, has employed a number of Middlebury undergraduates who have presented their research findings at scientific conferences.

Jim Stuart is a genuine Internet enthusiast. Immediately after arriving at Middlebury in 1993, Jim became involved in large-scale information and communication technologies, and established Middlebury as one of the first liberal arts colleges to have a home page on the World Wide Web. The College now receives as many as 480,000 "hits" a week. Currently, Jim is leading the effort to bring the next generation of electronic mail, collaborative tools, and groupware services to Middlebury.

John Wilders came to Middlebury after establishing an international reputation as a brilliant Shakespeare scholar at Oxford. Since arriving at Middlebury, he has become one of our most exciting classroom teachers. Besides several books on Shakespeare—one of which consists of introductions to all of the plays—two of John's radio plays have been broadcast by the BBC. He is a governor of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre and was literary consultant for the BBC/PBS television productions of the complete plays of Shakespeare.

Special Events

Question and Answer Session: Middlebury College Today
John M. McCardell, Jr., President
4 p.m., Saturday, August 31

Jazz Ensemble
Led by Fred Haas, saxophonist and instructor in music
Saturday evening, August 31

Academic Director of Alumni College: Professor Russell J. Leng '60

Registration Form for the 21st Alumni College
August 28-September 1, 1996

Please reserve a place for me _____ Class _____
(Please print name)

and a space for my spouse/guest _____
(Please print name)

Address _____

_____

Phone _____

My first choice is #_____ My second choice is #_____

Spouse/guest first choice is #_____ Spouse/guest second choice #_____

Special housing needs?

_____

_____

Fees
$450—all-inclusive cost per person (12 meals, lodging for four nights at Bread Loaf, tuition, books); $425—first-timers.

Method of payment
❑ Check payable to Middlebury College enclosed

❑ Visa ❑ Mastercard

Card number _____ Expiration date _____

Cardholder's name _____
(Please print name)

Cardholder's signature _____

Please send form with payment to:
Alumni and Parent Programs Office
Kirk Alumni Center
Middlebury College
Middlebury, VT 05753

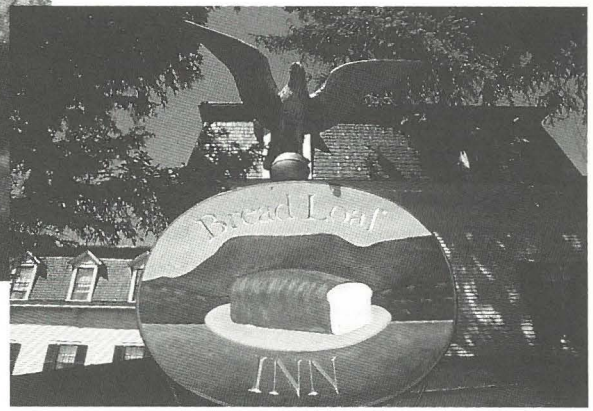
Reservation Deadline: August 15, 1996
No refunds after August 15

Need more information, including child care options? Call the Alumni and Parent Programs Office at (802) 388-3711, extension 5183; fax: (802) 388-1340.

One of the Last Unspoiled Campuses

Alumni College participants spend four days at Middlebury's Bread Loaf campus, 12 miles from town in the mountains of central Vermont. With its rolling hills, long views, and quiet serenity, it's no surprise that many Alumni College particpants return year after year.

"Summer at Middlebury is where people got their idea of heaven."



The Life of the Mind Is the Heart of Middlebury

Middlebury's Alumni College is an annual opportunity for alumni, parents, and friends to return to Vermont and experience again the excitement of learning from some of the best teachers in the world.

"It was a privilege to be exposed to the wonderful teachers."

Middlebury Is for Life

This year join fellow Middlebury alumni and faculty for relaxation, thought-provoking discussions, and the peace and tranquility of the Vermont countryside. Come back to Middlebury.

"Thank you for this lovely time in a beautiful spot with old and new friends."